

ADMINISTRATION MUST NOW DECIDE CITY TAX RATE

**Special Committee Will Take
No Further Action as City
Commission Has Power to
Fix Budget and Rate.**

The ordinance fixing the tax rate at \$2.20 has been held for nearly a month. There seems to be every indication that it will be passed next Tuesday, probably before the city council meets.

ably just as it was originally drawn. A statement giving the reasons for the proposed action may be made by the mayor this week.

Every person included in the proposed budget, published next month is insured against the possibility of a change of direction in the proposed rate will be made.

Big Budget Increases.

The total estimated budget for the year, given in the published estimate furnished by the city clerk, is \$8,229,814.

The total budget expenditures for 1915, taken from the same publication, are given as \$7,783,417.

That is an estimated increase in general

The published statement shows that the city began the year 1918 with a balance, but finished up with an overdraft of \$540,338.

The tax rate committee suggested that the proposed expenditures this year, with half the year past, could, in their opinion, be scaled down at least to \$200,000 by proper economy in each department, and the cutting down of the force of employees in some departments. They made suggestions as to a few departments such as Ernest Miller's \$100,000 claim agent job, but left the decision as a whole to the mayor and commissioners.

Simple Revenue Assured.

They also suggested that with an increased total assessment of \$1,254,000 and increasing revenues from nearly every department which collects fees, licenses, fines and forfeitures, considerably more than \$100,000 from those sources might be anticipated.

The budget estimate referred to included \$850,000 money borrowed this year against collections of taxes. That must be paid, of course, out of this year's revenues, but any business man can figure for himself that it should not be considered in estimating budget needs.

Police Expenses Up.

ler, when he was fire and police commissioner, stated early in the year that he could pay the increased salaries fixed for that department, and not increase the total expense, because by employing better men, he could police the city with a fewer number of patrolmen.

The average number of patrolmen last year is given by the city clerk's office

The May payroll shows that exclusive of the special police, 65 in all, hired for the Centennial week, there were 160 patrolmen on the payroll, the monthly total being \$13,156. That would make the yearly payroll \$157,872 for patrolmen.

The administration payroll for May was \$2,315, and the payroll for the special men was \$2,951.

Many "Specials."
Reference to last year's average pay roll, shows that there were that year 20 special men, who drew for the year \$29,773, and that there were 29 administration police, not doing regular patrol duty, but consisting of clerks, phone operators, etc., who drew for the year, \$22,413.

No specific reference was made in the committee report as to these figures but it is shown that the total expense of the police department last year was \$253,415 and the budget estimate this year is \$280,000.

With reference to the mayor's contention that any difference was made in the main point at issue by the slight error as to the total number of em

Referring to the May payroll once more, the amount paid out by the city on payroll account that month (eliminating the 65 special Centennial policemen) is given by the city clerk's figure

Multiplied by 12, that seems to indicate that if the May net payroll is an average one for the year, the total payroll in all departments this year will be \$1,246,752.

Total payrolls in all departments, as shown by the city clerk's figures for last year, were \$961,318.

That is an indicated increase this year in payrolls alone of \$285,318, or much more than the committee report suggested might be saved by an economical administration of the city's affairs.

APPROVE NAMING OF FUME RIOT COUNCIL

FLUME RIOT COUNCIL

PARIS, July 9. (Havas).—The appointment by the council of five of a committee to investigate disorders between Italian and French troops in Flume meets with the general approval of the French press. Several newspapers declare the incidents have been exaggerated and misrepresented by a num-

The *Petit Parisien* says there is no truth in the report that the departure from Paris of Signor Tittoni, the Italian foreign minister, was in connection with the Italo-French incidents in the Adriatic.
